

HOUSE RESOLUTION 290

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the organizers, sponsors, and participants of the Africa in April Cultural Awareness Festival.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to salute those exemplary events that bring great honor and acclaim to Tennessee and serve to enrich the cultural fabric of this great State; and

WHEREAS, the Africa in April Cultural Awareness Festival is one such estimable event, where Memphians and people from across the South will congregate at Robert R. Church Park on world famous Beale Street to celebrate this laudable event, which was first held in 1986; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to share the enriching experience, unifying power, and sheer joy of cultural exchange, Africa in April features four days of cultural diversity through the exhibition of ethnic music, cuisine, education, economics, transportation, technology, history, fashion, arts, crafts, and creative performances; and

WHEREAS, Africa in April enhances the lives of everyone in the community by providing an avenue for community leaders and organizations, government officials, students, the elderly, businesses, and religious organizations to learn more about the accomplishments of Africans and African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the City of Memphis, Shelby County, parochial schools, area colleges and universities, and community organizations and institutions will participate in the event and enjoy a diverse cultural marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Africa in April's immense success is due in large part to the assiduous efforts of founders Dr. David L. Acey, Sr., the Executive Director and an Assistant Professor of African-American Rhetoric and Interracial Communication at the University of Memphis, and

Associate Director Yvonne Acey, a former Memphis City Schools instructor assigned to English, African-American Literature, and Creative Writing, who serves as the events marketing, promotions, and communications coordinator; and

WHEREAS, for years, Africa in April has inspired, entertained, and educated thousands, and as one of the finest cultural attractions in Shelby County and all of the Mid-South, it should be properly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join in celebrating the Africa in April Cultural Awareness Festival, as we commend and thank the organizers, David L. Acey, Sr. and Yvonne B. Acey, the sponsors, and the participants of this outstanding event for their contributions to the expansion of the cultural horizon of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.